

FATALITY



AFZF-SAFE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

20 SEP 06

SUBJECT: Labor Day Holiday Traffic Accidents – Fatality Memo 06-16

1. Unfortunately, we were not able to achieve our goal of an accident-free Labor Day holiday. The Corps reported six serious accidents over the holiday weekend. These accidents resulted in hospitalization of seven Soldiers; five of whom suffered serious injuries. Common factors contributing to the severity of these injuries were the failure to use seat belts and motorcycle operators not wearing the required personal protective equipment. One Soldier, a vehicle passenger, was fatally injured. The driver attempted to enter a highway, lost control of his vehicle, veered off the roadway, and rolled several times. Preliminary investigation indicated causative factors were excessive speed and aggressive driving.

2. III Corps has lost **18** Soldiers this fiscal year to preventable vehicle accidents. The causative factors of many of these vehicular accidents continue to be excessive speed, failing to drive responsibly, fatigue, and alcohol. Leaders must identify high risk Soldiers and work with them to modify their high risk behavior. We must ensure our Soldiers are trained on POV safety operations and required safety equipment. Training is especially important for motorcycle riders. Commanders must ensure that motorcycles operators are properly trained and counsel those who choose not to comply with the requirements.

3. As warfighters, our focus is on the Global War on Terrorism. Commanders and first-line leaders must work with our Soldiers to help them make the right decisions in their off-duty activities. We must enforce standards and positively influence Soldiers. We all share in the responsibility to end this carnage that is taking our Soldiers' lives on local streets and highways.

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RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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